

#1 Know God By Name

Did you know we draw close to God by studying His names? I can't wait for you to experience God showing you more of His power and presence. Years ago, I was a stressed out young pastor's wife, worked a job outside of our home, mother of a preschooler and kindergartener, exhausted from the demands of my family and ministry, I was desperate in need of support and friends. God connected me with a Moms In Touch group (now known as Moms in Prayer International www.momsinprayer.org). This phenomenal group of women loves to pray and taught me how to worship God by praying His names. This practice has not only deepened my prayer life, it has increased my faith. I've become more acquainted with God's character and now so thankful to be actively seeking an ever-expanding trust in an Almighty God.

There are many ways to draw close to God as we study His word. Spiritually, something exciting and personal happens when we study God's names, we find out about His unique character qualities and experience His Holy Spirit presence. It takes time to examine these special names of God, one by one; it's like looking at a postcard of the Grand Canyon. The solo shots each show a segment of a breathtaking view. When we absorb truths about God one at a time, we can better understand the reality and certainty of His character and the capability of His presence in our daily lives.

When we study the names of God, we:

- Experience God's power in fresh ways
- Increase our desire for intimacy with God
- Apply our experience with God to other areas of life – parenting, marriage, marketplace and personal communication

#2 Names of God Reveal His Character

Did you know, the names of God each reveal something about His character? Are you aware that understanding God's titles reveals His purposes and His commitment to us and gives practical handles for life applications? There are many ways to draw close to God as we study His word. Spiritually, something exciting and personal happens when we study God's names, we find out about His unique character qualities and experience His Holy Spirit presence.

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Exodus 20:24 says, "Wherever I cause My name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you." God wants us to understand Him as we study His character through His names. Take a minute to underline Exodus 20:24 in your Bible, and let's pray:

"Heavenly Father, I honor your name, I bless your name, I praise your name. I pray for your wisdom, discipline and insight as I embark on the journey of knowing you by Your names. Lord, I

want to experience you more. Thank you for your willingness in allowing me to find you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.”

#3 Jehovah Tsidkenu

Self-righteousness can be viewed as a negative character quality. Remember ‘The Church Lady?’ on Saturday Night Live, Actor Dana Carvey dressed up as a religiously pious, yet prudish and frumpy elderly woman. So what was the point? The woman was squeaky clean in her behaviors, yet her attitudes were unlovely and a far cry from ethical. The Church Lady’s attempt to be good actually worked against her, paving the way for her ego driven self righteous piety to thrive. Consider the word righteous. Even the most honest, ethical, moral individual could not be good enough to work their way into heaven.

Jehovah Tsidkenu is our righteousness. “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Because of the finished work of Christ, God sees us as righteous as He sees His Son. “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10). The meaning of ‘tsidek’ is straight, stiff, balanced, as on scales and full width, justice, right righteous, declared innocent. God is our righteousness. And this righteousness has been gifted to us through God’s son, Jesus. Romans 3:21-22 reminds us, “But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe” And that's good news! Let’s pray.

Dear Jehovah Tisdkenu, thank You for the blood of Jesus, the only Righteous One. He willingly died in my place, let His blood

cover my sins, so I could be righteous, justified, restored to fellowship with You. In Jesus name, amen.

#4 Jehovah Tsidkenu

What is righteousness? Google defines it as “the quality of being morally right or justifiable.” The Bible says 'there is none righteous, no not one.' What a comfort to know God provided for our righteousness. He knew we couldn't do it on our own.

Romans 3:23-25 reminds us, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood— to be received by faith.”

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, His blood covers our sins and He clothes us in His robe of righteousness. This outfit is perfect for any and every occasion. Aren't you glad we don't have to settle for any old frumpy rags? Jehovah Tsidkenu is our righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21 reminds us, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” Because of the finished work of Christ, God sees us as righteous as He sees His Son. I am looking forward to the future. I can't wait for the day mentioned in Jeremiah 23:5-6, “‘The time is coming,’ says the Lord, ‘when I will place a righteous Branch on King David's throne. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. And this is His name: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’”

Let's pray.

Dear Jehovah Tisdkenu, Thank You for Your love, peace, purpose, and righteousness. I can't wait for the day when You rule

the New Earth and finally make all things right. In Jesus name, amen.

#5 God of Heaven

I think about heaven a lot. Heaven is an eternal city called the “new Jerusalem.” Imagine a crystal clear river flowing down the middle of the city, from the throne of God. On each side of the river, there will be a tree of life. The streets will be made of purest gold, like translucent glass. Adorning the walls of the city will be every kind of jewel: emerald, onyx, amethyst, topaz. The Lord’s presence will give the heavenly city the light it needs. “Give thanks to the God of heaven, his love endures forever” (Psalm 136:26). It is essential to know who the God of Heaven is, since everything on earth depends on it.

There is only one God, although God is known by many different names. Each of His names display aspects of His character and offer contact points to us through His personality. Before rebuilding the wall at Jerusalem, Nehemiah prayed to God in Nehemiah 1:5, “Then I said: Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments.” The God of Heaven is also the God who rules over us.

He is the One who has everything under control, even the circumstances we don’t understand or don’t like. Thoughts about heaven and facts about God help give us perspective as we look forward to the future. Spending eternity in heaven is just a breath away. Let’s pray.

Dear God of Heaven, it’s amazing that You would care about my problems. Thank you for helping me renew my perspective about spending eternity in heaven with you. In Jesus name, amen.

#6 Zur the Rock

I live in California. Earthquakes are common talk. We wonder when “the big one” will hit. Earthquake preparedness is a must: schools participate in earthquake drills, companies host earthquake preparedness seminars, and here at home, we gather items for earthquake survival kits.

So when a 3.5 quake rattled our peaceful community, I was caught off guard. It happened early in the morning, I was in my bedroom making my bed and suddenly the floor underneath my feet shifted down, like an elevator’s sudden descent.

Maybe you’ve never been in an earthquake, yet we’ve all been in uncomfortable and unstable places more often than we’d like. I call these life-quakes. When we feel unsure in relationships, job, or finances, we face life-quakes that rattle our trust in God’s stability. We wonder why, if God really loves us, He let the shaking start and why He doesn’t make it stop. Circumstances make us feel like our comfortable little world is rocked, turned topsy-turvy, even dismantled. It is essential for us if we want to function in God’s victory to remember Who is our foundation. The name of God, Zur, means God our Rock. God wants us to hold onto His promises and stand firm in the power of His stable presence.

We begin with the renewing our mind, which comes by reading His word, marinating in His promises, and standing on the solid ground God provides when we own up to our authority in Christ and rise up in faith. Psalm 40:2 gives us a promise to claim, “He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”

#7 Zur - Quake Stopper

The name of God, Zur, means God our Rock. Maybe you've never been in an earthquake, yet we've all been in uncomfortable and unstable places more often than we'd like. I call these life-quakes. When we feel unsure in relationships, job, or finances, we face life-quakes that rattle our trust in God's stability. We wonder why, if God really loves us, He let the shaking start and why He doesn't make it stop.

Life-quakes hit when we least expect them. Since these times of being all shook up are part of life, let's make a choice now to practice a little life-quake preparedness. Let's prepare for the big one and the small ones, too. When the life-quake hits, we will be able to find stable ground again. An added blessing is while we let God help us assimilate ourselves, we can also help others in the midst of their own life-quakes. First we must implement the reaction of praising God and thanking God before He sends the solution and the shaking stops. God's nature is a firm foundation, so we can expect His consistent response as Zur – God Our Rock. When we trust Him, we anticipate His best is on the way to help us find our firm footing once again. Psalm 18:2 reminds us, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold". Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You for being Zur— God Our Rock. You love me. Help me stand firm. Help me to stay near to You, my Rock, my fortress and my stronghold. In Jesus name, amen.

#8 Deliverer

Love covers a multitude of sins." The words rang in my ears, and I couldn't get the six-word phrase off my mind. At seventeen, already an alcoholic and an addict, I was working at a summer

camp in Lake Tahoe. Although I was raised in church, I had never been around Christians like these. They didn't tell me to change anything about my appearance, my attitudes, or my addictions. "Love covers a multitude of sins," they said, when I smoked cigarettes or dope or threw fits over doing my chores. "Love covers a multitude of sins." Was God's love enough to cover all the wrong, illegal, and immoral things I had ever done, including my alcohol addiction, lying, bad habits, promiscuity, and even my drug dealing? Was it true that I didn't have to clean up my act before coming to God and that he loved me passionately just the way I was?

One night, in the quietness of my cabin, I submitted to the overwhelming love of God. I agreed with him about my condition and allowed his grace to cover my multitude of sins. That was June 1974, and God hasn't let go of me since. God delivered me from my drug and alcohol addiction. David Wilkerson says, "How quickly we forget God's great deliverance in our lives. How easily we take for granted the miracles he performed in our past." The name of God: Deliverer reminds us God will rescue us if we call on Him. He will give us victory over the most difficult circumstances and will see us through. 2 Samuel 22:18 reminds us, "He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me."

#9 Deliverance is for Everyone

Stuck in an addiction, overwhelmed by depression or feel like you can't get motivated? Psalm 107:1-2 says "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story..." Thankfulness to God should always be on the lips of those whom he has saved. The Israelites had been in bondage, yet the Lord heard their cries and he freed them. A

definition of redeemed says “redeemed means to reclaim, recover, rescue.” God rescued His people. We can trust God to redeem us in impossible circumstances and claim his promises. Psalm 107:6, “Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress”.

When I was given a diagnosis of stage 4 non Hodgkins lymphoma, I cried out to God for my healing and so did others around the world. We prayed for my healing. I thank God for delivering me from cancer. God wants to deliver you. Are you worried about the future, unknown test results, finances, a prodigal child? Isaiah 54:10 is for you “though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken, nor my covenant of peace be removed.” And when the Deliverer carries you through, thank Him and praise Him for the satisfaction He brings. “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love...for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things” (Psalm 107:8-9). Let’s pray.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You, for You are good. Your love endures forever. Thank you My Deliverer, You are so good. Thank You, My God. In Jesus name, amen.

#10 El Kanna

Ever had a jealous boyfriend or jealous mother? Sometimes possessive jealousy can bring on fierce damage especially in relationships gone bad. But that is not God’s kind of jealous. The name of God, El Kanna – Jealous, might seem negative, since usually we think of jealousy as bad. Jealousy can mean green with envy or lust—we don’t have something someone else has so we covet it. In Exodus 20:1,2, the first commandment reads: “I am

the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me”

The ten commandments were given to the children of Israel for their good, to give them guidelines for living. God understood their desire for worship. Held in captivity in Egypt, they'd become familiar and even intrigued with other gods.

Because of mercy, God's anger was withheld, yet Moses petitioned the Lord, in Exodus 34:8-9, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin and take us as your inheritance.” The Lord knew then, as He knows today, that other gods will compete for our hearts. He is fully aware of the wiles of the enemy who wants to exploit that unquenchable longing for more. “Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14). The word jealous makes us think of words like envy, resentment, or rivalry. But it also means vigilantly guarding something, intolerant of unfaithfulness, or righteous zeal. The name El Kanna expresses God's desire to be first in our hearts and lives.

#11 Jealous God

El Kanna alone is worthy of all our devotion and praise. He wants to be number one. He is jealous for us because He made us, loves us, and wants us for His own. He desires for us to vigilantly guard our relationship with Him and to remain faithful to Him as He zealously pursues us. Beth Moore encourages us to have “The audacity to make an unseen Savior the supreme romance of your life.” That's what loving a jealous God is all about, because God's jealousy is more about us than about Him.

You and I are on His mind all the time. He made you for the express purpose of sweet fellowship with Him. God doesn't want to share you with any other god. He is not willing to make a threesome of it. Do you know any wife willing to share her husband with another woman? Are you aware of a husband who would be okay with his wife running off on a Hawaiian vacation with another guy? Yep, that's our God. He is jealous for us. He wants us all to Himself. And I like it that way. "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave" (Song of Songs 8:6).

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, We love You El Kanna—our Jealous God.

Thank you for reminding us in Deuteronomy 6:5, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" You, even when we become distracted by other things or people and we give them more of our attention than we give You. In Jesus name, amen

#12 El Bethel

I couldn't wait to get to my secret place. I had found it the first day I'd arrived at the Christian camp. I'd stumbled upon it when I was searching for a camper who'd gotten separated from our group. I remembered how the ancient oak tree's sanctuary beckoned me into its peaceful canopy, its trunk twisted into a natural seat provided me solace during my camp counselor summer job watching over hundreds of noisy children. The oak tree was my hallowed spot, my sacred area and sanctuary.

One of my favorite things about studying the names of God is how God reveals Himself to us through the characteristics associated

with His name. For the name, “El Bethel,’ I think of how real God was to Jacob, just at the time Jacob needed it. God became Jacob’s sanctuary, his secret place, his hallowed spot. Jacob was running away from his brother, yet our more-than-enough God reiterated the promise for Jacob’s future and also provided a way of escape. In the same way, God proves Himself to us over and over if we give Him a chance. Whenever we need Him, all we have to do is ask for His help. “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3). Let’s pray.

El Bethel abide in me. Set up Your home in the very depths of my soul. Let Your words dwell in me that I may know and live by them and for You. Reveal to me the sin I must confess and turn from that I may be pure and blameless in Your sight. Show me how to best honor you.

#13 My Sanctuary

The name of God, El Bethel occurs only once in the Bible. It’s the name that Jacob gave to the place near the city Bethel.

Remember the famous ladder from earth to heaven? Jacob had a dream. In it, he saw a stairway to heaven and the angels of God were climbing up and down the steps. In Genesis 28:13-15, the Lord stood at the top of the stairway and spoke to Jacob, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you.”

Can you imagine a dream such as that? No wonder, Jacob went back to the same place and built an altar to memorialize the event, There he built an altar and he called the place El Bethel, because it was there God had revealed Himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother” (Genesis 35:6-7). Maybe you haven’t been visited by God in a dream, lately, but you’ve had a recent answer to prayer. As God to direct you to remember a way to memorialize the time and day your got your answer. God knows how short our memory is and how much we need reminding of His provision for our answers.

#14 God of Israel

Do you wonder if God can handle your problems? A proper perspective of God’s magnificence helps us trust that He is much better at managing our lives than we are. But wait, there’s more. God wants all men and women, boys and girls, from every tongue, tribe and nation to know His love. 2 Chronicles 6:14 reminds us, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth —you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue whole heartedly in your way.”. God loves people. He wants everyone to have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior. Isaiah 37:16, “O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth”

Did you know approximately 16,300 ethnic people groups are considered unreached, less than 2% Christ-followers, that’s over 41% of the world’s population. The body of Christ is the vehicle God is using to share His love with the nations. This fulfills His purpose in availing His plans, power, and presence with all who will receive Him. 2 Peter 3:9 reminds us, “The Lord is not slow in

keeping His promise, as some understand slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance". Let's pray for Isaiah 52:7, Thank you Lord, you say, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation who say to Zion Your God reigns". We pray that everyone would find peace in Jesus Christ. Amen."

#15 Ancient of Days

I love hymns. As a youngster I remember belting out this chorus, "Our shield and defender, the ancient of days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise. The title 'Ancient of Days' first appears in Daniel 7:9, where Daniel is describing his vision of heaven. There an ancient, or venerable, Person sits on a flaming throne with wheels of fire, His hair and clothing white as snow. The flaming throne is symbolic of judgment, while the white hair and title 'Ancient' indicate that God existed before time began. God existed before literal days were created. We read in Genesis 1 that God created time, days and nights, so God existed from before the beginning of time.

God is often represented as ancient, as He that is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psalm 90:2) and as 'the first and the last' in Isaiah 44:6." In Daniel 7:13, the term "ancient of days" refers to God the Father, and we see Him on His throne as Jesus. God is a triune God, meaning three persons in one, and at different times Ancient of Days refers to Jesus Christ, and at other times the name applies to God the Father.

In the prophetic sense, it clearly refers to Jesus, the Ancient of Days, returning to pronounce judgment on the world. So what

does the term “ancient of days’ mean to us today? Authority, supreme authority, belongs only to God the Father both in heaven and earth. God the Father will judge all mankind through His son, Jesus Christ. Corinthians 5:10.), and the. The Ancient of Days is not a dusty, outdated or detached God, He loves you personally and has a perfect plan for your life.

#16 God Sent a Savior

Do you know God is crazy about you? God’s love is unconditional, no strings attached, God’s love is perfect. How do we know God loves us? Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. God created us in His own image—for a relationship with Him—but He gave us freedom of choice, to partake in the love relationship with Him or not.

The problem is, you and I are separated from a Holy God because of our sin. Romans 3:23 reminds us, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” And Romans 6:23 “For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” There is only one solution for the problem of separation from God...some have tried to earn their way to heaven by working harder or being religious, but Hebrews 9:6 says, “Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission [forgiveness] sins.” Jesus Christ is the only answer to the problem. He died on the cross and rose from the grave, paying the penalty for our sin. He provided a way for us to have a relationship with God.

As you read John 3:16, pause at the blanks to say your name aloud and fill in the blank. “For God so loved _____ that He gave His only begotten son, that if _____ believes in

Him, _____ should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). What amazing love. Have you made a decision to accept God's invitation of love? If not, what are you waiting for? You have nothing to lose.

#17 Jehovah Jashopet

I feel so dirty,” my friend sobbed. “It's like everyone is criticizing me.” It was the end of our weekly recovery support group meeting and for the previous hour, the dear lady had vulnerably shared her painful past. Our group of four had compassionately listened, loved, and prayed over her past mistakes. “How can God forgive me for aborting my child?”

Like so many others, this sweet woman was trapped in her own guilt, shame and blame. She was her own worst judge. Jehovah Jashopet is the name of God that means The Judge. The adjective righteous describes His most important attribute as a judge. The name Righteous Judge includes the idea that God judges justly. Jesus (Yeshua) put judgment in perspective. Jesus did not come to earth to judge people; He came to bring salvation.

The dear lady in my support group had accepted God's forgiveness of her sins but she couldn't forgive herself. For decades, she was a willing participant in an ugly and painful game she could not win. She played the shame-game, her mind repeating thoughts like, “How could I have allowed the unhealthy behavior to continue?” The judgmental thoughts she condemned herself with were like poison darts and affected her self-perception.

Holding close to truth is the way we root out deception and take God at His word.. We must let God judge us and allow room for him to make changes. God helped my friend untangle the knots of

self-deception so she would be free to experience His truth. God's Word cut through the lies and ushered in the truth of His love: "I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have drawn you with loving-kindness"(Jeremiah 31:3).

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For decades, the dear lady in my support group was a willing participant in an ugly and painful game she could not win. When she heard, applied and believed what God said about her, she could love herself and accept even her past mistakes. When you feel guilty, it is difficult to move forward. But we don't have to be victimized by our past, held captive to our thoughts or imprisoned by how others perceive us. Trusting God moves us ahead unhindered; our progress becomes secure as we apply God's word to our circumstances. It helps repeat His word out loud. Romans 8:1 breaks through guilt, shame, blame, and unworthiness, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Let God defend you and free you through the power of His word.

Let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your son, Jesus (Yeshua) to put judgment in perspective. Thank You Jesus came to earth to bring salvation for everyone. In Jesus name, amen.

#19 El Kanna

Ever had a jealous boyfriend or jealous mother? Sometimes possessive jealousy can bring on fierce damage especially in relationships gone bad. But that is not God's kind of jealous. The name of God, El Kanna – Jealous, might seem negative, since usually we think of jealousy as bad. Jealousy can mean green with envy or lust—we don't have something someone else has so we covet it. The first commandment reads: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:1-2).

At first, the Israelites followed the Ten Commandments and obediently worshipped God whole-heartedly. Now the people impatiently waited for Moses to come down the mountain, complained and groaned about their lot, took matters into their own hands. Aaron gave orders to begin making a golden calf for the people to worship. Moses sought God's favor and pleaded with Him to have mercy. God didn't change His mind, but God changed His behavior in a way that was consistent with His nature. Because of His love, God's mercy was unleashed.

The name El Kanna expresses God's desire to be first in our hearts and lives. He desires for us to vigilantly guard our relationship with Him and to remain faithful to Him. El Kanna alone is worthy of all our devotion and praise. He wants to be number one. That's what loving a jealous God is all about, because God's jealousy is more about us than about Him.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your grace, mercy and compassion for us. We love You El Kanna—our Jealous God, thank You for being mindful of us.

#20 El Bethel

I couldn't wait to get to my secret place. I had found it the first day I'd arrived at the Christian camp. I'd stumbled upon it when I was searching for a camper who'd gotten separated from our group. I remembered how the ancient oak tree's sanctuary beckoned me into its peaceful canopy, its trunk twisted into a natural seat provided me solace during my camp counselor summer job watching over hundreds of noisy children. The oak tree was my hallowed spot, my sacred area and sanctuary.

The name El Bethel occurs only once in the Bible. It's the name that Jacob gave to the place near Bethel where he had seen the famous ladder from earth to heaven.

God of Bethel, the name of the place where Jacob had a dream. In it, he saw a stairway to heaven and the angels of God were climbing up and down the steps. The Lord spoke to Jacob, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying." Genesis 28:13.

God was real to Jacob. God became Jacob's sanctuary and his secret place. Jacob was running away from his brother, yet our more-than-enough God reiterated the promise for Jacob's future and also provided a way of escape. In the same way, God proves Himself to us over and over if we give Him a chance. Whenever we need Him, all we have to do is ask for His help. " (Jeremiah 33:3 reminds us, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know,

21 God of Israel

Do you wonder if God can handle your problems? A proper perspective of God's magnificence helps us trust that He is much better at managing things in our lives than we are. But wait, there's more. God wants all men and women, boys and girls, from every tongue, tribe and nation to know His love. 2 Chronicles 6:14 says, "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth —you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue whole heartedly in your way"

Appearing 195 times in the Old Testament, this name of God shows the Lord's sovereign rule over the nation and people of Israel. The people of Israel are God's chosen people. But God loves and has a plan for all people. God loves people. He wants everyone to have the opportunity to know Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior. Isaiah, the prophet, had a vision recorded in Isaiah 61: 1,3 "In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory'" In Isaiah 37:16, "O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth" Now that's proper perspective.

The God of Israel is able to handle our problems. He wants to use us as part of His plan to invite all men and women into His family of love.

#22 Ancient of Days

I love hymns. I remember belting out this majestic chorus as a youngster, "Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,

pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise. So what does this name of God, Ancient of Days mean? “The title ‘Ancient of Days’ first appears in Daniel 7:9, where Daniel is describing his vision of heaven. In another passage in Isaiah, God refers to Himself existing from ancient of days (literally, before days were).

That means God was alive and well before days were even created. We read in Genesis 1 that God created time, days and nights, so God existed from before the beginning of time. God is “from everlasting to everlasting” (Psalm 90:2) and ‘the first and the last.’ (Isaiah 44:6.)

So what does the term “ancient of days’ mean to us today? Authority, supreme authority, belongs only to God the Father both in heaven and earth. God the Father will judge all mankind through His son, Jesus Christ. We will each have to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ and the judgment we receive will determine our eternal destiny. The Ancient of Days loves you and has a plan for your life. God’s love is unconditional; God’s love is perfect. How do we know God loves us? “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). God created us in His own image—for a relationship with Him—but He gave us freedom of choice. Jesus Christ is the only answer to the problem. He died on the cross and rose from the grave, paying the penalty for our so we may have a relationship with God.

#23 God Loves You

We are separated from a Holy God because of our sin. “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “For the wages [payment] of sin is death, but the gift of God is

eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). There is only one solution for the problem of separation from God, Jesus Christ.

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). What amazing love. God sent His son, His only son Jesus, to die for us. Which one of us would give our children—our only child— for the lives of someone? God did, for you. You are restored into a relationship with Him through His son. Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave. Jesus cares for you and He calls you, he has a plan for your life. We can’t clean up our act ourselves. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). God is asking you to give yourself totally and completely to Him. Pray this prayer to invite Jesus Christ to control your life through the Holy Spirit. Let's pray, Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus name, amen.

#24 Jehovah Hamelech

As a youngster, I remember watching the movie “The King and I,” envisioning myself as the special woman who stole the king’s heart. At the time it seemed appealing to be ‘found’ and then to become royalty. I am a hopeless romantic. A marriage to a king seems romantic because it would mean instant royal status. Jehovah Hamelech is the name of God which means The King. Exodus 15:18 says, “The LORD will reign for ever and ever.”

Jesus promised us, his followers, that we would inherit the kingdom of God. Can you imagine the impact this truth would have on us, if we lived in the reality of the words in this verse? “The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord and his name the only name” (Zechariah 14:9). Another promise about His coming Kingdom Matthew 13:34, “The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” Very soon, we will live in a marvelous place where there will be worship, love, peace, we will be loved, accepted, understood, and included. This gives me renewed resolve and realigned perspective on how I will serve Jehovah Hamelech – the King.

Now it is ‘the King and I,’ but not on the movie screen. It is me and Jehovah Hamelech. A future kingdom awaits us. I am more than excited and highly motivated to make a difference today as I serve my King and build His kingdom together with you until His return.

Dear Lord, you are king of kings and Lord of lords. Thank you for your strength and presence as almighty ruler, our great King. In Jesus name, amen.

#25 El Birith

Ever been disappointed in a loyal friend? Of course, all of us have experienced these kinds of pain. Unfortunately, people we trust go back on their word regularly, severed contracts and fragmented vows are an everyday occurrence. El Birith is the name of God that means God of the Covenant. The fly-shaped idol Baal-berith was worshipped by the Jews. The Jews were so addicted to this cult that they would carry an image of the idol in their pockets, producing it and kissing it from time to time.

I am prone to becoming addicted to other things I might think could help me manage my stress. There is something I carry in my purse that is a temptation and sits on the fence of becoming an addiction. I may not 'kiss' my iPhone; but I pay too much attention to it when I am constantly checking it. I've decided to put boundaries on eyeing my iPhone.

We must claim God's promises so that we are not dependent on anything or anyone for handouts. The only One who keeps every promise He has ever made to us is our covenant God. El Birith. Christ-centered hope must be the foundation of our lives. It helps to know verses like Psalm 56:3, "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" Or Psalm 62:8, "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge".

Dear El Birith, You are the God of the Covenant. Thank You for keeping every promise You have ever made to me. Amen